

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus operated for opening a vehicle door, comprising:

an opening operation member provided at the vehicle door outside of a compartment and operated for rotating a latch mechanism of the vehicle door relative to a vehicle body from an engaging condition to a disengaging condition;

a vehicle door lock apparatus provided inside of the compartment relative to the opening operation member of the vehicle door and having an unlocked condition that the latch mechanism is rotatable and a locked condition that the latch mechanism is not rotatable based on at least an operation of the opening operation member;

an input member provided at the vehicle door lock apparatus for receiving an operating force from the opening operation member provided ~~inside~~ outside of the compartment; and

a cable provided for transmitting the operating force from the opening operation member to the input member;

the cable extending downward from both the opening operation member and the vehicle door lock apparatus.

2. (Original) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle door lock apparatus includes an inner cover covering inside of the compartment thereof, and the input member is provided at the inner cover.

3. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the opening operation member includes an inner member fixed to an inner surface of an outer panel of the vehicle door and an outer member provided at an outer surface of the outer panel of the vehicle door and supported by the inner member, and the vehicle door lock apparatus includes a supporting member for supporting the inner member engageably and disengageably.

4. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cable ~~extends from the opening operation member in vertical direction, curves at a middle portion thereof and further extends in vertical direction toward the vehicle door lock apparatus upon being assembled within the vehicle door~~ contacts an inner surface of an outer panel of the vehicle door.

5. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein including a protecting member provided at the cable for engaging with the inner surface of the outer panel of the vehicle door.

6. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein including a wire harness supported with the cable for electrically

connecting the opening operation member side and the vehicle door lock apparatus side.

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the latch mechanism is rotatably supported at a first shaft, the vehicle door lock apparatus being provided inside of the compartment means the inside relative to a the first shaft rotatably supporting the latch mechanism, and the opening operation member being provided outside of the compartment means the inside relative to the first shaft.

8. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the cable forms approximately a U-shape form from in cross-sectional view including the two vertical portions extending from the opening operation member and the vehicle door lock apparatus and the a curved portion extending in a thickness direction of the vehicle upon being assembled within the vehicle door.

9. (Currently Amended) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the operation force is generated due to a pivotally pivoting movement of the outer member in an outward direction and transmits is transmitted to the input member through the cable for rotating the latch mechanism.

10. (Original) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input member is a lever-type member rotatably supported by a second

shaft extending in approximately the thickness direction of the vehicle door and rotated inside of the compartment relative to the first shaft.

11. (New) A vehicle door operating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the opening operation member includes a handle frame fixed to an inner surface of an outer panel of the vehicle door and a handle grip provided at an outer surface of the outer panel of the vehicle door and supported by the handle frame, the handle frame comprising an engaging portion which is engageable with a supporting portion to support the handle frame and disengageable from the supporting member.